



McCarthy becomes the first speaker ever to be ousted from the job in a House vote

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Kevin McCarthy was voted out of the job Tuesday in an extraordinary showdown — a first in U.S. history, forced by a contingent of hard-right conservatives and throwing the House and its Republican leadership into chaos. It's nearing the end of the political line for McCarthy, who has said repeatedly that he never gives up, but now has almost no options remaining. Neither the right-flank Republicans who engineered his ouster nor the Democrats who piled on seem open to negotiating. McCarthy told lawmakers Tuesday evening he would not run again for speaker, putting the gavel up for grabs. Next steps are highly uncertain as there is no obvious successor to lead the House Republican majority. McCarthy's chief rival, Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, orchestrated the rare vote on the obscure "motion to vacate," and pushed ahead swiftly into a dramatic afternoon roll call.

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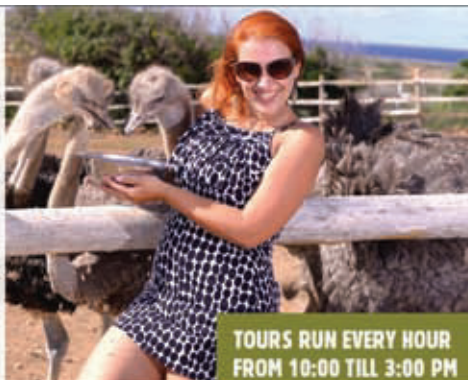


Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., leaves the House floor after being ousted as Speaker of the House at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023.

(AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)
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McCarthy becomes the first speaker ever to be ousted from the job in a House vote



Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., leaves the House floor after being ousted as Speaker of the House at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023.

Continued from Front

While McCarthy enjoyed support from most Republicans in his slim majority, eight Republican detractors — many of the same hard-right holdouts who tried to stop him from becoming speaker in January — essentially forced him out. Stillness fell as the presiding officer gavelled the vote closed, 216-210, saying the office of the speaker “is hereby declared vacant.” Moments later, a top McCarthy ally, Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., took the gavel and, according to House

rules, was named speaker pro tempore, to serve in the office until a new speaker is chosen. The House then briskly recessed as lawmakers prepared to meet privately and discuss the path forward. It was a stunning moment for McCarthy, a punishment fueled by growing grievances but sparked by his weekend decision to work with Democrats to keep the federal government open rather than risk a shutdown. But in many ways, McCarthy’s ouster was set in motion when, in deal-making with hard-right holdouts

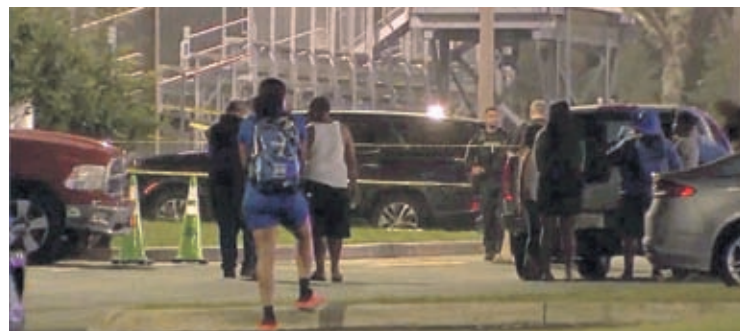
mands — including a rules change that allowed any single lawmaker to file the motion to vacate. As the House fell silent, Gaetz, a top ally of Donald Trump, rose to offer his motion. Leaders tried to turn it back, but the vote was 218-208, with 11 Republicans against tabling the motion, a sign of trouble to come. The House then opened a floor debate, unseen in modern times, and Republicans argued publicly among themselves for more than an hour. “It’s a sad day,” Republican Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma said as debate got underway, urging his colleagues not to plunge the House Republican majority “into chaos.” But Gaetz shot back during the debate, “Chaos is Speaker McCarthy.”

As the fiery debate dragged on, many of the complaints against the speaker revolved around his truthfulness and his ability to keep the promises he has made. Almost alone, Gaetz led his side of the floor debate, criticizing the debt deal McCarthy made with President Joe Biden and the vote to prevent a government shutdown, which conservatives opposed as they demanded steeper spending cuts. But a long line of McCarthy supporters stood up for him, including Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a leader of the conservative Freedom Caucus, who said, “I think he has kept his word.” Rep. Garret Graves, R-La., waved his cellphone, saying it was “disgusting” that hard-right colleagues were fundraising off the move in text messages seeking donations. □

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

at the start of the year, he agreed to a series of de-

11-year-old shoots, injures 2 teens following altercation at Florida Pop Warner football practice



This image made from video provided by WFTV-TV shows people standing near a crime scene in Apopka, Fla., Monday, Oct. 2, 2023.

(WFTV-TV via AP)

Associated Press
APOPKA, Fla. (AP) — An 11-year-old boy retrieved a gun from an unlocked box in his mother’s vehicle and shot two 13-year-olds following an altercation that began during a Pop

Warner football practice in central Florida, police said Tuesday. The child fired one shot on Monday night, hitting one teen in the arm and the other in the torso, Apopka police Chief Mike McKin-

ley said during a Tuesday morning news conference. He said surveillance video showed that both teens were running away from the boy when the shot was fired. The two teens are in stable condition, McKinley said. Responding officers took the gun from the child, and he was detained, McKinley said. The boy was later charged with one count of attempted second-degree murder and booked into the juvenile assessment center. The chief said the boy’s mother may face a second-degree misdemeanor charge of leaving a gun unsecured. □



US announces sweeping action against Chinese fentanyl supply chain producers

By Fatima Hussein and Eric Tucker

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration took aim Tuesday at the fentanyl trafficking threat, announcing a series of indictments and sanctions against Chinese companies and executives blamed for importing the chemicals used to make the deadly drug. Officials described the actions, which include charges against eight Chinese companies accused of advertising, manufacturing and distributing precursor chemicals for synthetic opioids like fentanyl, as the latest effort in their fight against the deadliest overdose crisis in U.S. history. The moves come one day before senior administration officials are set to visit Mexico, whose cartels are part of the global trafficking network, for meetings expected to involve discussion of the drug threat.

"We know that this network includes the cartels' leaders, their drug traffickers, their money launderers, their clandestine lab operators, their security forces, their weapons suppliers, and their chemical suppliers," Attorney General Merrick Garland said at a news conference. "And we know that this global fentanyl supply chain, which ends with the deaths of Americans, often starts with chemical companies in China." Besides charging eight companies, the Justice Department also indicted 12 executives for their alleged roles in drug trafficking. In a coordinated action, the Treasury Department announced sanctions against 28 people and companies — mostly in China but also in Canada — that will cut them off from the U.S. financial system and prohibit anyone in the U.S. from doing business with them. None of those charged has been arrested, but Garland said prosecutors intended to "bring every one of these defendants to justice."

"It's the latest step in the

rapid scaling up of our work targeting the financial flows that power the global illicit drug trade," said Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo. He said Treasury is also seeking out the friends, family members, and affiliates of the people who benefit from drug sales.

"If you benefit from the proceeds of this illicit activity, we are going to come after your assets," he said. Mexico and China are the primary sources for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances trafficked directly into the U.S., according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, which is tasked with combating illicit drug trafficking. Nearly all the precursor chemicals that are needed to make fentanyl come from China. And the companies that make the precursors routinely use fake return addresses and mislabel the products in order to avoid being caught by law enforcement. One of the examples cited by the Justice Department involves a Chinese pharmaceutical technology company that advertised xylazine, a horse tranquilizer that is often mixed to fentanyl to ensure a more potent high, and shipped the chemicals to the U.S. and to Mexico. One of the purchasers in Mexico, officials said, was a drug trafficker associated with the Sinaloa Cartel.

This latest action follows a series of measures taken this year against members of the Sinaloa cartel, cash couriers and cartel fraud schemes.

Republicans have complained, however, that the administration isn't doing enough to stop fentanyl and the issue is likely to figure prominently in next year's presidential campaign. In February, 21 Republican state attorneys general wrote a letter to President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken calling on them to designate Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations. Last year a



A vial containing 2mg of fentanyl, is displayed at the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Testing and Research Laboratory in Sterling, Va., Aug. 9, 2016. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen, File)

group of Republican attorneys general asked the president to declare fentanyl a weapon of mass destruction. No such actions have been taken. Fentanyl, a powerful opioid, is the deadliest drug in the U.S. today. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that drug overdose deaths have increased more than seven-fold from 2015 to 2021.

More than 100,000 deaths a year have been linked to drug overdoses since 2020 and about two-thirds of those are related to fentanyl. The death toll is more than 10 times as many drug deaths as in 1988, at the height of the crack epidemic. The U.S. has taken

a slew of actions to stem the tide of fentanyl coming into the country. Overall, the Biden administration has imposed over 200 sanctions related to the illegal drug trade. State lawmakers nationwide are responding to the deadliest overdose crisis in U.S. history by pushing harsher penalties for possessing fentanyl. In a speech at the Family Summit on Fentanyl last week, Garland said the Justice Department was sending out some \$345 million in federal funding over the next year, including money to support mentoring for at-risk young people and increase access to the overdose-reversal drug naloxone. □

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Colorado high court to hear case against Christian baker who refused to make LGBTQ-themed cake

By Colleen Slevin and Jesse Bedayn

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — On the heels of a U.S. Supreme Court victory this summer for a graphic artist who didn't want to design wedding websites for same-sex couples, Colorado's highest court said Tuesday it will now hear the case of a Christian baker who refused to make a cake celebrating a gender transition. The announcement by the Colorado Supreme Court is the latest development in the yearslong legal saga involving Jack Phillips and LGBTQ+ rights.

Phillips won a partial victory before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2018 after refusing to make a gay couple's wedding cake.

He was later sued by Autumn Scardina, a transgender woman, after Phillips and his suburban Denver



Jack Phillips, who's case was heard by the Supreme Court several years ago after he objected to designing a wedding cake for a gay couple, speaks to supporters outside the Supreme Court, Dec. 5, 2022, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

bakery refused to make a pink cake with blue frosting for her birthday and to

celebrate her gender transition.

Scardina, an attorney, said

she brought the lawsuit to "challenge the veracity" of Phillips' statements that he

would serve LGBTQ+ customers. Her attorney said her cake order was not a "set up" intended to file a lawsuit.

The Colorado Supreme Court didn't explain how or why it made the determination to hear the case. It was announced in a long list of decisions about which cases they will hear and reject.

The case involves the state's anti-discrimination law that makes it illegal to refuse to provide services to people based on protected characteristics like race, religion or sexual orientation.

The key issue in the case is whether the cakes Phillips creates are a form of speech and whether forcing him to make a cake with a message he does not support is a violation of his First Amendment right to free speech. □

New York judge issues limited gag order after Trump sends disparaging post about court clerk

By Michael R. Sisak, Bobby Caina Calvan and Jennifer Peltz

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rebuking Donald Trump, a state court judge imposed a limited gag order Tuesday in the former president's civil business fraud trial and ordered him to delete a social media post that publicly maligned a key court staffer.

Judge Arthur Engoron told all participants in the case not to smear court personnel, warning of "serious sanctions" if they do.

"Personal attacks on members of my court staff are unacceptable, not appropriate, and I will not tolerate them," Engoron said after complaining — without naming names — about a defendant's "disparaging, untrue and personally iden-

tifying post about a member of my staff."

A few hours earlier, Trump had posted a photo of Engoron's principal law clerk, Allison Greenfield, posing with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., at a public event. Trump, the Republican front-runner for president in 2024, has repeatedly cast the trial as a political attack by New York's Democratic attorney general, Letitia James.

Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform that it was "disgraceful" that Greenfield was working with the judge in the courtroom, adding to complaints he'd made outside court Monday. The post apparently sparked a series of closed-door courtroom discussions, involving Trump and lawyers for both sides, during what's usually a lunch break. By the time the gag order was issued, Trump had deleted the post — as Engoron ordered, according to the judge.

As for Schumer, a spokesperson called the post "pathetic" and said the senator doesn't know Greenfield and is in photos with thousands of constituents.

Aside from that sideshow, James' attorney questioned an accountant Tuesday in an effort to build the state's case that Trump and others at his company had full control over the preparation of misleading and false financial statements at the heart of their case.

The state's lawsuit alleges that Trump and his business chronically lied about his wealth on financial statements given to banks, insurers and others.

Also Tuesday, Engoron set the record straight about a comment that the ex-president had touted as an important victory.

The judge had suggested on Monday that testimony about Trump's 2011 financial statement might be beyond a 2014 time limit for

claims in this case. Trump's legal team has argued that the time limit cuts off most of the claims.

But Engoron ruled last week that all the claims were allowable under the statute of limitations, and he made clear Tuesday that the trial isn't "an opportunity to re-litigate what I have already decided." He said that at the trial's early stage, he's inclined to give both sides considerable leeway to connect older evidence to claims in the lawsuit.

He and lawyers have said his financial statements were legitimate representations of the worth of unique luxury properties, made even more valuable because of their association with him. The defense also emphasizes that the financial statements bore disclaimers saying that they weren't audited and that others "might reach different conclusions" about his financial position if they had more information. □



Former President Donald Trump speaks to the media during a break in his civil business fraud trial at New York Supreme Court, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023, in New York.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

A bus crash near the Italian city of Venice kills at least 21 people, including Ukrainian tourists

By Giada Zampano
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A bus carrying foreign tourists including Ukrainians crashed near the Italian city of Venice when it fell from an elevated street Tuesday, killing at least 21 people and injuring 18 others, authorities said. Four of the injured were in serious condition following the accident in the Mestre borough, on the mainland opposite the historic old city of Venice, said Renato Boraso, a Venice city official. Two of the dead were children, Venice prefect Michele Di Bari said. Boraso confirmed that some of the victims are



In this image made available by Italian State Police, Italian state police agents attend the scene of a passenger bus accident near the city of Venice, Italy, that fell from an elevated road, late Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023, killing at least 21 people near the northern city of Venice.
(Italian State Police via AP)

Ukrainians, and said the bus was bringing tourists to a camping site. Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that the scene of the crash was "apocalyptic" and that he had already declared the "city's mourning" for the "numerous victims" who were on the bus. According to local media, the bus fell a few meters before crashing close to Mestre's railway tracks, where it caught fire. Emergency crews were on the scene. Premier Giorgia Meloni expressed her "deepest sorrow" after the crash. □

Armenia's parliament votes to join the International Criminal Court, straining ties with ally Russia

By Avet Demourian
Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Armenia's parliament voted Tuesday to join the International Criminal Court, a move that further strains the country's ties with its old ally Russia after the court issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin over events in Ukraine. Moscow last month called Yerevan's effort to join the ICC an "unfriendly step," and the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Armenia's ambassador. Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC are bound to arrest Putin, who was indicted for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, if he sets foot on their soil. Armenia later sought to assure Russia that Putin would not be arrested if he entered the country. Still, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called Tuesday's decision "incorrect," saying it will raise "additional questions" in Moscow, even though Armenia is "our ally, a friendly state, our partner, and a lot unites us with the brotherly Arme-

nian people." Asked if Putin would have to refrain from traveling to Armenia, he added: "Of course, we wouldn't want the president to have to ever, for whatever reason, refuse a visit to Armenia." A diplomatic solution is needed and will be discussed with Yerevan, he said. Armenian officials have argued the move has nothing to do with Russia and was prompted by what they call Azerbaijan's aggression against the country. Lawmakers voted to ratify the Rome Statute by a vote of 60-22. The measure goes next to Armenia's president, who must prepare a ratification document, which is then deposited with the U.N. secretary-general. The decision comes into force 60 days after the ratification, according to Armenian lawmakers. Armenia's relations with Russia have frayed significantly in recent years. In 2020, Moscow brokered a deal that ended a six-week war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It mandated that Yerevan cede to Baku large swaths of territory in and around

Nagorno-Karabakh, a part of Azerbaijan with a predominantly Armenian population. Russia then sent some 2,000 peacekeepers to the tumultuous region and Armenia has accused the troops of failing to prevent recent hostilities by Azerbaijan that led to Baku taking full control of the region. The Kremlin, in turn, has accused Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of precipitating the fall of Nagorno-Karabakh by acknowledging Azerbaijan's sovereignty over the region. Moscow also blames Yerevan for damaging ties with Russia by embracing the West, including hosting U.S. troops for joint military drills. It remains unclear whether Pashinyan might take Armenia out of the Moscow-dominated Collective Security Treaty Organization, a group of several former Soviet nations, and other Russia-led alliances. Armenia also hosts a Russian military base and Russian border guards help patrol Armenia's frontier with Turkey. Armenia had started the process of joining the ICC more than 20 years ago, but in 2004 its Constitutional



Armenian lawmakers attend the session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia in Yerevan, Armenia, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023.
(Hayk Baghdasaryan/PHOTOLURE via AP)

Court ruled that the Rome Statute contradicted the country's constitution at the time, putting the process on pause. The constitution has been amended twice since then. In March, the Constitutional Court ruled that the obligations for signatories outlined by the Rome Statute are in line with the existing constitution. Armenia's envoy on international legal matters, Yeghishe Kirakosyan, said Yerevan decided to resume the process of joining the ICC because of Baku's alleged aggression against

Armenia. Armenian officials last year accused Azerbaijan of killing a number of Armenian prisoners of war, an allegation Baku had promised to investigate. Human Rights Watch hailed Armenia's move and urged other countries in the region to follow its example. "Armenia's decision to join the International Criminal Court in the face of strong opposition – including from Russia – deserves international support," Balkees Jarrah, associate international justice director at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement. □

UN authorizes a second malaria vaccine. Experts warn it's not enough to stop the disease spreading

By Maria Cheng
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The World Health Organization authorized a second malaria vaccine on Monday, a decision that could offer countries a cheaper and a more readily available option than the world's first shot against the parasitic disease.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the U.N. health agency was approving the new malaria vaccine based on the advice of two expert groups, recommending its use in children at risk of the disease.

Oxford University developed the new three-dose vaccine with help from the Serum Institute of India. Research suggests it is more than 75% effective and that protection is maintained for at least another year with a booster. Tedros said the shot would cost about \$2 to \$4 and could be available in some countries next year if funders agree to buy it.

Earlier this year, regulatory authorities in Ghana and



A baby from the Malawi village of Tomali is injected with the world's first vaccine against malaria in a pilot program, on Dec. 11, 2019.

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay, File)

Burkina Faso approved the vaccine. Johnson was not part of the WHO expert group that gave the Oxford vaccine the green light.

In 2021, WHO endorsed the first malaria vaccine in what it described as a "historic" effort to end the devastating toll the mosquito-transmitted disease has on

Africa, home to most of the world's estimated 200 million cases and 400,000 deaths.

If the new vaccine is rolled out widely across Africa, it could dramatically reduce the amount of severe illness and deaths caused by malaria in a few years, Craig said. Neither of the ma-

laria vaccines stop transmission so immunization campaigns alone won't be enough to stop epidemics. Efforts to curb the disease are also being complicated by increasing reports of resistance to the main drugs used to treat malaria and the spread of invasive mosquito species.

In a separate decision, WHO's expert group also authorized the dengue vaccine made by Takeda, which was previously approved by the European Union drug regulator.

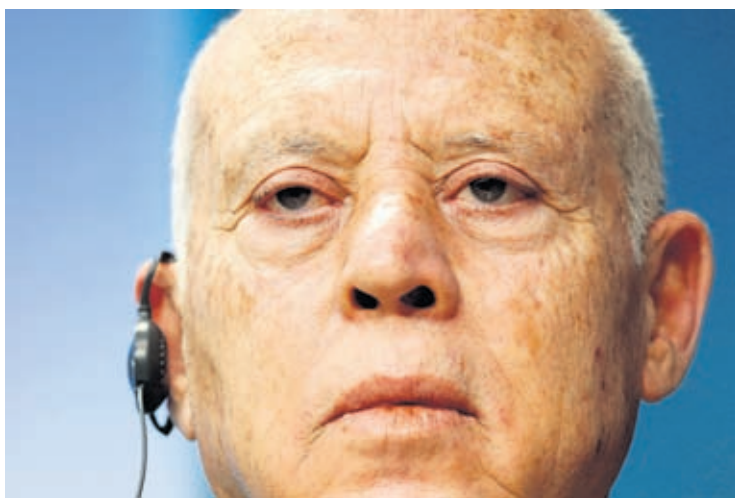
There is no specific treatment for dengue, common in tropical Latin American and Asian countries. While most infections are mild, severe cases of the mosquito-spread disease can lead to internal bleeding, organ damage and death.

WHO's expert groups advised that the Takeda dengue vaccine be used in children aged 6 to 16 in countries with a high prevalence of the disease.

Previous studies have showed Takeda's vaccine was about 84% effective in preventing people from being hospitalized with dengue and about 61% effective in stopping symptoms four years after getting immunized.

Nearly 1,000 people have been killed by dengue this year in an ongoing epidemic in Bangladesh, the country's worst outbreak of the disease. □

Tunisia rejects European funds and says they fall short of a deal for migration and financial aid



Tunisia's President Kais Saied speaks during a media conference at an EU Africa summit in Brussels, Feb. 18, 2022.

(Johanna Geron, Pool Photo via AP, File)

By B. Bouazza and S. Metz
Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia on Monday announced it would reject an installment of funds sent by Europe to help the debt-ridden country patrol the Mediterra-

nean Sea as migrant boat crossings spike to levels not seen in several years.

President Kais Saied on Monday accused the European Union of not following through on agreements made earlier this

year to help Tunisia patrol its borders, curb smuggling and balance its federal budget. Though he called the disbursement "a small amount," Saied said the decision was less about its size and more about how it "lacks respect."

"The treasures of the world are not equal to a single grain of our sovereignty in the eyes of our people," Saied said in a statement published on TAP, the country's official news agency. "Tunisia, which accepts cooperation, does not accept anything that resembles charity or handouts."

The rejection calls into question a broad agreement that the EU and Saied brokered in Rome in July to provide more than 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) to Tunisia.

It will likely amplify worries about the country's spiraling financial woes among credit rating agencies, lenders, Tunisian government workers and people reliant on state subsidies for food and energy. Marcus Cornaro, the EU's ambassador to Tunisia, brushed off concerns about the agreement's durability, noting that rather than confrontation, Saied's remarks demonstrated that both sides were eager to implement it. Saied's statement that Europe's plan for the initial installment contradicted the agreement "speaks to Tunisia's impatience and desire to speed up implementation," he said, adding that Europe was also impatient to deepen its ties with Tunisia. "We're not in a

situation of misunderstanding," he said Tuesday on Mosaïque FM, a Tunisian radio station. "This process is not behind schedule." The July agreement included a pledge of 105 million euros (\$110 million) earmarked for migration. Tunisia has emerged as one of this year's primary launching points for migrants and refugees — including many escaping war and poverty — seeking to reach Europe. More than 90,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean so far from Tunisia to Italy so far this year, according to figures from UNHCR updated on Monday. The majority have done so via iron boats to Lampedusa, a small island closer to North Africa than the Italian mainland. □

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Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been

many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After hav-



ing had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them no-

ticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling.

Source: visitaruba.com



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The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the

leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The



next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short lifespan: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.

Sources: Etnia Nativa & goldmineranch.com.

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Aruba Tourism Authority honors a loyal visitor at Costa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. This lovely lady was honored with a certificate acknowledging her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Distinguished Visitor of Aruba Mrs. Mickie Sawtelle from North Carolina, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed

the certificate to the honoree, presented her with memorable gifts, and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her best-loved vacation destination, and as her home away from home.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mrs. Sawtelle were:
Aruba's warm and friendly



people who have become like family
Aruba's beautiful views
Aruba's many varieties of

restaurants to choose from
"Aruba is relaxing"
"Aruba is fun!"

Aruba to me

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Liz Allen and Eric Compton who are visiting us from Erie, Pennsylvania

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is blue water, white sand, a green economy, a multi-hued culture. Color us happy!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Ceramic from my soul to yours

Etnia Nativa is where you can connect with the mystical aspects of Aruba, its culture, and its traditional heritage. A platform that encourages visiting participants to interact with the Aruba's unique cultural environment. During this episode, we share how the first inhabitants of our island created and used the earth by crushing, squeezing, rubbing, and beating it into clay until it obtained the desired shape.

Ceramic is the most abundant material recollected by archaeologists on prehistoric sites. The oldest sample dates back to the Neolithic period and is considered one of the great inventions of humanity since it represented a revolutionary discovery when its transformation became a way to record written accounts and be able to manufacture objects to store and transport all kinds of goods such liquids, food, and reliable construction materials.

In Aruba, a series of geometric designs turned out to be unique as ceramic decorations that defined an era, a cultural identity, and a national heritage. Our Caquetian ancestors developed an original style

classified as Dabajuroide, named after the nearby city of Dabajuro in Falcón State, Venezuela. These classic designs were known as polychrome, made out of various tones of red, black, and white and their combinations, as well as a variety of forms such as stippling and incision.

Another peculiar and important category is large vessels, which demonstrate great technical skill in their production. Most large vessels were associated with burials but were also used intensively in everyday life to store large quantities of liquids, such as corn beer, honey, jerky seeds, roots, etc.

All vessels were formed by hand using a rolling technique. The largest vessels demonstrate the mastery and excellence of the Dabajuro potters. The decorated ceramic pieces were finer, thinner, and of great quality. It is evident that pottery was very important

Episode CCXXVI - 226

to the sedentary Amerindians of the Ceramic Period. Clay was not only used for different tasks, as mentioned above, but it was also used to build their dwellings. It was applied in funerary practices, agro-religious traditions, and shamanic ceremonies. We can conclude from the many shreds of evidence that it had a very important place in the preparation of food and rituals and was a central part of their political organization and tribal way of life.

Two main decoration techniques highlight their work. The first one was by painting designs using agave pencils, while the second was by applique modeling. In some cases, a dark pigment was applied to the much lighter background of the container. Colors such as brown, reddish brown, red, and black were used by grinding ocher. The other decoration technique was modeling. From simple motifs, such as corrugated edges and rings with additional appliques around the edge of the vessel, to more complicated motifs, such as stylized animal heads such as frogs, bats, birds, turtles, etc. Human heads, anthropomorphic effigies, vessels, and complete stylized sculptures of animals were also produced. It is evident that pottery was very important for the sedentary Amerindians of the agro-ceramic period, venerated as a gift of knowledge obtained from mother earth.

Since ancient times, working with clay has been a work of self-discovery where creativity emerges through emotion and fluidity, a communicative instrument liberated from "my soul to yours." At Etnia Nativa, we interpret the designs of the islanders and transform local clay into fantastic ceramic vessels and ritual objects. Using artisan techniques, we select high-quality material and prepare it to be molded by hand.



If you want to explore Aruba's deep heritage, Etnia Nativa is a place to connect. It's a private residence that integrates natural and reused materials and is full of art, culture, and island heritage. Each visitor is guided through an authentic encounter with the owner-builder and cultural expert. Book a magical look inside Etnia Nativa: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etniana03@gmail.com.☐

Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for

hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing



population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rab-

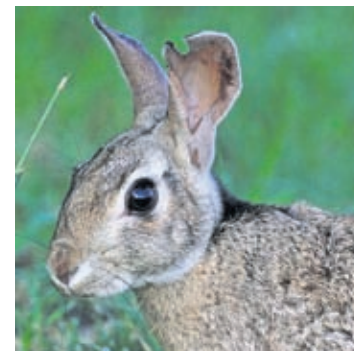


bit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa

constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/> □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Fiddler's need
6 Overturn
10 Cider fruit
11 Shrek's love
12 Rock formed from clay
13 Bring on
14 Stock holders
15 Make happy
16 Yale rooter
17 Director Burton
18 Was a pioneer
19 SOS indication
22 Sailor's call
23 The Emerald Isle
26 Young lady
29 June honoree
32 Greek consonants
33 Serving feat
34 Grove fruit
36 Scheme
37 Lover of drama
38 Greek consonant
39 Clarifying words

DOWN

- 40 Snowy wader
41 Play group
42 Gander's mate
1 Sounded hoarse
2 She loved Hamlet
3 La Paz language
4 Miseries
5 Once known as
6 Excellent
7 From the area
8 Not available
9 Did kitchen work
11 Scenes of a lot of shooting
15 Cobbler's cousin
17 Checking for fit
20 Male cat
21 Polite address
24 No slacker
25 Houdini feats
27 Take to court
28 Capitol group
29 Column type
30 France
31 Titled women
35 Dapper
36 When repeated, a Samoan city
38 Beer container

A	D	M	I	T		A	I	M	E	D
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Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10					11			
12					13			
14					15			
16				17			18	
19			20			21		
	22				23		24	25
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29	30	31		32			33	
34			35			36		
37					38			
39					40			
41					42			

10-4

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-4

CRYPTOQUOTE

F M A Q U F M B Q Z F B O G .

C P O Q H J M B P Z F S U .

— Y Q J R O I J M B
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ALL I'VE GOT IS ME.
AND THAT IS ENOUGH. — VIOLA DAVIS

EU announces plans to better protect its sensitive technologies from foreign snooping



A member of European Commission, left, prepares to exchange documents with Chinese delegation at a signing ceremony after the 5th China-EU High Level Economic and Trade dialogue at Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing, on Sept. 28, 2015.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong, File)

By Raf Casert

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union announced plans on Tuesday to better protect its cutting-edge technologies from foreign snooping that might threaten its economy and security in the wake of repeated warnings that the bloc needs to "de-risk" its relations with China.

"Technology is currently at the heart of geopolitical competition and the EU wants to be a player, and not a playground," European Commission Vice President Vera Jourova said. To better protect its relatively open market, the European Commission wants the member states to im-

mediately carry out risk assessments of its most sensitive industries, including advanced semiconductor, artificial intelligence, quantum and biotechnologies. Those are considered "highly likely to present the most sensitive and immediate risks related to technology security and technology leakage" and are up for the highest level of protection.

Even though the European Commission refrained from putting the onus on any specific country, the EU itself has repeatedly said that it must be better prepared to develop measures to protect trade and investment that China might exploit for its own se-

curity and military purposes. "China indeed is a big elephant in general terms, but in our recommendation, we are country agnostic," Jourova said. Thierry Breton, the EU's internal market commissioner, said that the measures would reach well beyond Beijing.

"We want to de-risk, but not only with China, with everybody, including some time, if it's needed, with some of our like-minded partners," he said. How the risk assessments would be followed up with measures wasn't fully clear. The measures are the latest example of the struggle the 27-nation has in setting its relations with Beijing. The EU has said that despite sometimes fundamental differences on human rights and state involvement in the economy, it was no option to fully decouple relations with such a superpower. Hence, the EU has sought to center on de-risking relations, and better protecting its vital economic sectors from undue interference. □

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Many states are expanding their Medicaid programs to provide dental care to their poorest residents



Danielle Wilkes is seen by a dentist during a clinic visit Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn. Wilkes waited five years to have her teeth repaired after getting several teeth knocked out in a car wreck.

(AP Photo/George Walker IV)

By Michael Casey
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — For months, Carlton Clemens endured crippling pain from a rotting wisdom tooth. He couldn't sleep, barely ate and relied on painkillers to get by. The 67-year-old from Nashville, Tennessee, could not afford to see a dentist on the \$1,300-a-month his family gets in Social Security and disability payments. So he waited for the state to roll out a program this year that offers dental care to the more than 650,000 Medicaid recipients like him who are 21 and older. Tennessee is spending about \$75 million annually on the program.

"Man, I thought I had made it to heaven because the pain was over," he said after the tooth was

pulled in July at the Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. "When they did pull it out, I was so happy. I was so glad. Everything just changed after that." His wife, Cindy, who also is on Medicaid, has had her teeth pulled at the clinic. Medicaid, the federal and state health insurance program for the poor, requires states to provide dental coverage for children but not adults. But with a growing recognition of the economic and health costs of poor dental health and an influx of federal pandemic dollars, six states began or expanded their Medicaid programs this year to provide coverage for adults. Access remains difficult in many of those states with some dentists refusing to treat Medicaid patients. Even those who want to

expand their practice are finding themselves caught up in red tape. Dr. Victor Wu, the chief medical officer for Tennessee's Medicaid program, said he was pleased with the rollout of Medicaid dental benefits that started in January, but he acknowledges the state needs to build out its network and increase the participation rate among dentists. While dental care often is seen as routine, the poor often go without any care for years or even decades. Doing so has significant costs, both to taxpayers and to those who cannot afford treatment. One study from Texas A&M University found that treatment for preventable dental conditions represents up to 2.5% of emergency room visits, at a cost of \$2 billion a year. An additional \$45 billion is lost year in productivity in the United States annually from untreated oral disease, according to the federal

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. □

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Selma Blair helps White House salute landmark disability legislation

By Will Weissert

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Actor and disability rights advocate Selma Blair on Monday helped President Joe Biden mark the legacy of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act, displaying a touch of the comedic timing that made her a star in Hollywood hits like “Legally Blonde” and “Cruel Intentions.”

Blair, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2018, walked together with Biden to a ceremony on the White House's south lawn with her cane and her service dog, an English Labrador named Scout.

When she reached the stage, she told Scout, “down” and “good boy.” As he lay near Biden's feet, the president started to bend down to pet Scout, but Blair looked over and said, “yeah, stay.” That caused Biden to straighten up to full attention.

“I feel so powerful all of



President Joe Biden walks with actress Selma Blair and Blair's service dog Scout as they arrive for an event to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act on the South Lawn of the White House, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

a sudden,” laughed Blair. Then, indicating a handheld microphone in addition to the one she was using affixed to the podium, she said, “I don't need this. This is for someone else, cor-

rect?” “It's for me,” Biden said, prompting Blair to respond, “OK, the real guy.” Blair, 51, is known for a number of memorable late '90s/early '00's movie roles and her modeling career.

In recent years she's become a leading face of disability rights, calling herself Monday “a proud disabled woman.”

Blair told a crowd of advocates attending the cer-

emony, “Although I'd had symptoms since the age of 7, it took a lifetime of self-advocacy to finally lead me to a diagnosis at age 46, after living most of my life in pain and self-doubt.” The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by federal agencies, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prevents discrimination against disabled people on everything from employment to parking to voting.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and Biden noted both bills received bipartisan support when clearing Congress.

“These laws are a source of opportunity, meaningful inclusion, participation, respect, and, as my dad would say, the most important of all, dignity,” Biden said. “Be treated with dignity. Ensuring that the American dream is for all of us, not just for some of us.” □



Members of the media wait for celebrities to arrive during the opening night of the Sphere, Friday, Sept. 29, 2023, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

By Jonathan Landrum Jr.

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It looked like a typical U2 outdoor concert: Two helicopters zoomed through the starlit sky before producing spotlights over a Las Vegas desert and frontman Bono, who knelt to the ground while singing the band's 2004 hit “Vertigo.”

This scene may seem customary, but the visuals were created by floor-to-ceiling graphics inside the immersive Sphere. It was one of the several impres-

sive moments during U2's “UV Achtung Baby” residency launch show at the high-tech, globe-shaped venue, which opened for the first time Friday night. The legendary rock band, which has won 22 Grammys, performed for two hours inside the massive, state-of-the-art spherical venue with crystal-clear audio. Throughout the night, there were a plethora of attractive visuals — including kaleidoscope images, a burning flag and Las Vegas' skyline, taking the

U2 concert uses stunning visuals to open massive Sphere venue in Las Vegas

more than 18,000 attendees on U2's epic musical journey.

“What a fancy pad,” said Bono, who was accompanied onstage with guitarists The Edge and Adam Clayton along with drummer Bram van den Berg. He then stared at the high-resolution LED screen that projected a larger version of himself along with a few praying hands and bells.

Bono then paid homage to the late Elvis Presley, who was a Las Vegas entertainment staple. The band has rocked in the city as far back as 1987 when they filmed the music video for “I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For” on the Strip during a tour in 1987.

“Look at all this stuff. ... Elvis has definitely not left this building,” he continued. “It's an Elvis chapel. It's an Elvis cathedral. Tonight, the entry into this cathedral is a password: flirtation.”

U2 made their presence felt at the \$2.3 billion Sphere, which stands 366-feet (111 meters) high and 516-feet (157 meters) wide. With superb visual effects, the band's 25-show residency opened with a splash performing a slew of hits including “Mysterious Ways,” “Zoo Station,” “All I Want is You,” “Desire” and new single “Atomic City.”

On many occasions, the U2 band members were so large on screen that it felt like Bono intimately sang to the audience on one side while The Edge strummed his guitar to others on a different side. The crowd included many entertainers and athletes: Oprah, LeBron James, Matt Damon, Andre Agassi, Ava DuVernay, Josh Duhamel, Jason Bateman, Jon Hamm, Bryan Cranston, Aaron Paul, Oscar de la Hoya, Henrik Lundqvist, Flava Flav, Diplo, Dakota Fanning, Orlando

Bloom and Mario Lopez. After wrapping up The Beatles' jam “Love Me Do,” Bono recognized Paul McCartney, who was in attendance, saying “Macca is in the house tonight.” He acknowledged Sphere owner James Dolan's efforts for spearheading a venue that's pushing forward the live concert audio landscape with 160,000 high-quality speakers and 260 million video pixels.

The Sphere is the brainchild of Dolan, the executive chair of Madison Square Garden and owner of the New York Knicks and Rangers. He sketched the first drawing of the venue on notebook paper.

“I'm thinking the that the Sphere may have come into existence because of Jim Dolan trying to solve the problem that The Beatles started when they played Shea Stadium,” Bono said. □

Japan edges rival China to win men's world gymnastics title while US claims first medal since 2014

ANTWERP, Belgium (AP) —

Japan is back on top in men's gymnastics.

The five-man group led by reigning world and Olympic champion Daiki Hashimoto edged rival China in the team finals at the 2023 world championships on Tuesday to earn Japan's first major international gold medal since 2015.

The Japanese posted a team total of 255.594 points, nearly two points clear of China at 253.794.

China, which finished eighth during a sloppy performance in qualifications to barely make the final, bounced back with a medal on the line but couldn't quite catch Japan.

The U.S. men's program took a significant step for-



Japan's Kazuma Kaya reacts as he competes on the horizontal bar during the Men's team final at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Antwerp, Belgium, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023.

(APPhoto/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

ward by earning its first bronze at a world championships or Olympics since 2014. The five-man team of Asher Hong, Paul Juda, Khoi Young, Yul Moldauer and Fred Richard finished at 252.428.

The Americans avoided major mistakes early and then showed considerable growth late.

Needing to put together a solid set on high bar in the final event, Young, Juda and Richard came through with nifty performances.

Richard, a 19-year-old sophomore at Michigan, celebrated when he stuck his dismount while his teammates broke out in chants of "USA!" □

McLaren seeking at least \$23 million in damages from IndyCar champion Alex Palou in UK court

By Jenna Fryer

Associated Press

(AP) - McLaren Racing is suing IndyCar champion Alex Palou for at least \$23 million to recoup costs the team says it lost when the driver reneged on the contract he signed to join the team, Palou, a 26-year-old Spaniard, guaranteed that he had "no outstanding obligation under any contract or agreement" that would keep him from joining McLaren after the IndyCar season ended, according to the Sept. 29 filing in the High Court of Justice Business and Property Courts of England and Wales Commercial Court. The Associated Press viewed the 17-page filing Tuesday.

The lawsuit is the latest twist in an ugly spat involving the talented young driver and two teams: McLaren, which in July 2022 said it had signed Palou and had him earmarked for an IndyCar seat and a reserve driver role with its Formula One team, and Chip Ganassi Racing, which said it had the contractual rights for Palou for the 2023 season. Palou and Ganassi entered

mediation and a resolution was reached a year ago in which Palou would drive for Ganassi in 2023 but could do F1 work for McLaren when it did not interfere with IndyCar. He was able to participate in a practice session last season for McLaren, tested for the F1 team both on track and in a simulator, and was the reserve driver for McLaren at F1's Miami Grand Prix in May.

However, McLaren Racing CEO Zak Brown was contacted Aug. 8 and told Palou would not be joining McLaren. The filing says attorneys told Brown that Palou had signed a three-year extension with Ganassi, where he won the 2021 and 2023 championships, through 2026.

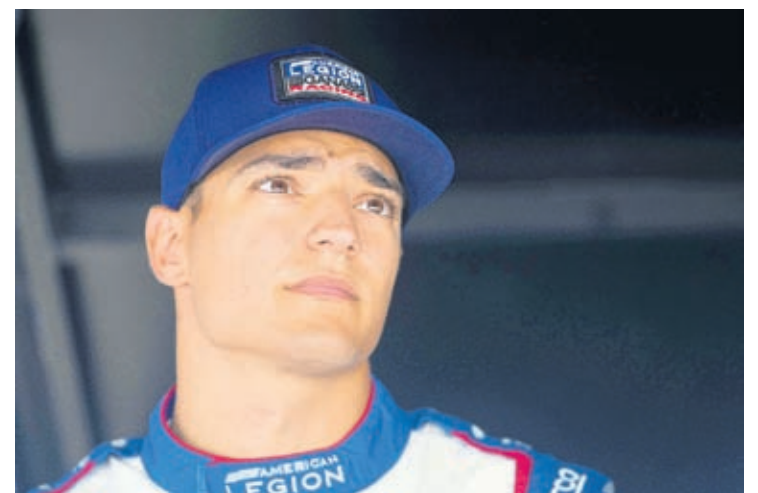
Palou did not respond to a message left seeking comment Tuesday. He previously confirmed to The Associated Press last month that he's not had any conversation with Brown or McLaren representatives since before the team was informed he was not honoring the McLaren contract. Palou also severed ties with

the management group that brokered the deal with McLaren.

The nearly \$23 million in damages McLaren is seeking is broken down in future sponsorship tied to Palou joining McLaren, the costs of using him as a reserve F1 driver, how much McLaren spent developing Palou for F1 and a \$400,000 advance on his 2024 salary. McLaren is not seeking repayment of legal fees it says it covered for Palou in last year's fight with Ganassi.

The filing states that after McLaren had already been informed Palou was not honoring his contract with the team, a second letter from attorneys representing Palou incorrectly claimed he had been promised a full-time seat in F1 and that because he was only going to be a reserve driver "a complete severing of the relationship (was) in order." McLaren held a hotel room in Singapore two weeks ago for Palou in anticipation of him being the team's reserve driver that F1 weekend. Palou did not attend the race for McLaren.

Citing pending litigation,



Alex Palou sits in his pit box during a practice session for the IndyCar Indianapolis GP auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Friday, Aug. 11, 2023, in Indianapolis.

(AP Photo/Darron Cummings, File)

Palou has repeatedly declined to comment on the situation this year but attempted to explain his silence last month at a media event ahead of the IndyCar season finale.

He indicated he'd never expressed interest in F1 until after he'd won his 2021 IndyCar title and an opportunity to at least try to make it to the top racing series in the world presented itself. But with only a reserve driver role available, he said, he would prefer to stay in IndyCar. McLaren has both

Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri signed through at least 2025.

"If you look at my interviews until 2021, I would say I was not focused on F1 at all, and that was totally true. But things changed when I won the championship," Palou said last month. "I was 24. I had just won my first big championship and what if I try something and it goes sideways, then I can come back when I'm 27 and still super young and can still do it for 10 or 15 years." □

A Passionate Trio's Mission: Fostering Compassion Towards Animals Through Educational Books

Three dedicated women launch a series of educational books promoting responsible pet ownership and empathy among children.

In a heartwarming effort to shape a more compassionate future, a group of three passionate ladies has embarked on an inspiring project aimed at instilling values of responsible pet ownership and empathy towards animals in young minds. Through a series of engaging and educational books, they aspire to make a lasting impact on children aged 6-10 years, igniting a love for animals and promoting a sense of responsibility.

The team, driven by their profound love for animals and a strong belief in the power of education, envisions a world where children grow up with a deep understanding of the needs and emotions of their furry friends. Their project centers around a lovable dog named Snoop Doggy, who takes young readers

on a captivating journey through adventures that emphasize the importance of empathy, care, and proper treatment of pets.

The members of Foundation Snoop Doggy firmly believe that educating children about responsible pet ownership and compassion towards animals at an early age lays a strong foundation for a more empathetic society. By immersing children in engaging stories and vivid illustrations, they hope to inspire a genuine connection between children and animals, nurturing a sense of empathy and respect.

The first book in the series, which is already in the works, promises to be a delightful experience for children and parents alike. Through the charming character of Snoop Doggy, children will learn about the joys and challenges

of owning a pet while discovering valuable life lessons. The team's vision extends beyond just one book, however. They aspire to produce subsequent volumes that delve deeper into the realm of pet care, further expanding children's knowledge and promoting positive interactions with animals.

To maximize their impact, the team aims to distribute a copy of their book to every child in group 5 (3rd grade) of the primary schools in Aruba around Animal Day. By reaching children at this crucial stage of their development, they hope to foster a generation of responsible and compassionate individuals who will advocate for the well-being of animals throughout their lives.

While the team has dedicated their own time, resources, and unwavering passion to this

project, they are calling upon the community to join their noble cause. Financial contributions, sponsorships, and volunteer support are all crucial to realizing their ambitious goal and ensuring that their message reaches as many children as possible.

The team's initiative has already garnered attention and support from local organizations and individuals who share their vision. Their dedication to making a difference has touched the hearts of many, and the community eagerly awaits the release of their first book.

For more information on how to support this project or get involved, please visit our Facebook page or Instagram page: Foundation Snoop Doggy. Or you can contact us by email foundationsnoopdoggy@gmail.com or at +297 568 6030.



NCAA Division I Council approves proposals to create stricter penalties for individual rule-breakers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA Division I Council approved on Tuesday a package of proposed penalties for infractions cases that would include stricter punishments for individual rule breakers.

The proposals include expanding suspensions for coaches to include the days between competitions, having schools incur penalties for employing individuals who have received a show-cause order and expanding disassociations with boosters who violate rules.

The council was also expected to discuss proposals for name, image and likeness compensation regulations and potentially adjusting transfer portal windows. The council meeting concludes Wednesday and its actions are not final until the meeting adjourns.



Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh celebrates after a touchdown against Nebraska during the first half of an NCAA college football game Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, in Lincoln, Neb. (AP Photo/Rebecca S. Gratz)

The NCAA is trying to modify the infractions process to encourage cooperation by schools by punishing individuals involved rather than hitting programs with postseason bans or recruiting restrictions that impact athletes who were not part of the rule-breaking.

Also, among the package of proposals OK'd by the council was publicly identifying individuals involved in major violations and creating a public database of coaches with a history of Level I and II infractions. The NCAA committee on infractions has been handing out suspensions to coaches more frequently, but those suspensions only include game days.

Michigan in August self-imposed a three-game suspension for football coach Jim Harbaugh in an infractions case that involves contact with recruits and

players during the pandemic dead period.

NCAA rules allowed for Harbaugh to coach his team at practice and meetings leading up to game day. Show-cause orders are commonly given to coaches, administrators or staffers who have committed serious infractions.

In a case resolved earlier this year involving Tennessee football, former head coach Jeremy Pruitt received a six-year show cause.

Currently, a school that wants to employ an individual with a show-cause in place needs to explain to the NCAA why and exposes itself to stricter penalties if other violations involving that employee occur. Under the proposal, hiring an individual under a show-cause would result in the school being penalized. □